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sorceries of her beauty" (p. 337). These are purple patches, and there are many of them. However, the style is not everywhere so good, but is distinctly unequal where formal statement alternates with spiritual portrayal.

Where Mr. Mabie lays his emphasis is seen in chapter XV., on "The Ethical Significance of the Tragedies," and perhaps there is a tendency to see in the poet's work something of the critic's individual point of view. But it is profoundly true that the great tragedies, where the complete merging of life and art is attained, "disclose the ultimate harmony between spirit and form." And it is no less true that Shakespeare "was primarily and always a poet."

The comparison between the stages of development of the Hamlet idea in Shakespeare's mind, and that of Faust in Goethe's, is a natural and happy one, though, like all parallelism, it must not be carried too far. "There is reason to believe, also, that the story found a lodgment in his imagination at an early day, and that it slowly took shape, widening in its significance with his experience, and striking deeper root in the psychology of the human spirit as his insight into life deepened" (p. 303). But these illustrations must suffice.

A queer slip is made in classing Chaucer's "Troilus and Criseyde" as one of the "Canterbury Tales" (p. 317).

There remains only to speak of the abundant illustrations—characteristic of the modern book—and the excellence of type and paper, which go to make a handsome volume.

EUGENE SCHUYLER. *Selected Essays.* With a Memoir by Evelyn Schuyler Schaeffer.

ITALIAN INFLUENCES. By Eugene Schuyler. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1901. Each, \$2.50.

Mr. Eugene Schuyler was an interesting figure in American diplomatic history. To the reader he is perhaps best remembered by the "Life of Peter the Great," which first appeared as a serial in *Scribner's Magazine* twenty years ago. Russia and Russian life and history became his first genuine diplomatic and literary interest, and, looking over

his career from our point of vantage of to-day, it seems a pity that he could not have remained in that country and the Southeast and become a final authority on Russian life, law, language, literature, and thought. Naturally bright, always good-humored, an entertaining and lively companion, apparently a prime favorite everywhere, he was too far the victim of political circumstance ever to bring out the best and fullest of which he was capable. Though he was an adherent of the party dominant from his entrance into public life to his death, with the exception of Mr. Cleveland's first term, it seems not to have been good politics to keep a man, however specially trained, in any one position permanently.

So we find him at Moscow, at Petersburg, at Constantinople—where he does some of his best service at the time of the Turkish war—at Birmingham, Rome, Belgrade, Athens, and Cairo. Pretty cosmopolitan he had to become. Furthermore, he was interested in all about him wherever he was, and every new sight and experience furnished matter for a spirited letter home or to the *New York Nation*. First impressions are necessarily strongest, and his stay in Moscow and Petersburg introduced him to his richest and deepest vein, as the "Life of Peter the Great," the description of a visit to Tolstoy, and other essays and letters prove.

The period from 1885 to 1889—the time of the presidency of Mr. Cleveland—was one of official leisure for Mr. Schuyler which he spent on the Riviera. His active mind could never be idle, and, true to his instinct in interesting himself in what was about him and in studying human nature under constantly new conditions, he wrote the series of letters to the *Nation* which makes up most of the second volume on "Italian Influences." Wherever one can go in Italy there are memories of names in English and the continental literatures. And so he describes the six hundredth anniversary of the University of Bologna; or has some gossip as to Dante; or it is Landor in Italy, or Dickens or Shelley or Byron or Milton or Mrs. Browning or Samuel Rogers or Smollett or Hawthorne or Mme. de Genlis or

George Sand or Mme. de Staël, or some particular saint's celebration, that gives him a new thread by which to form a letter. They were and are admirable as letters, but, like letters, they remain fragmentary in effect and appeared to better advantage in the columns of a newspaper than as serious contributions in a volume.

Always planning, always mentally active in some direction, Mr. Schuyler could also easily become diverted by something new. A wonderful adaptability appears to have been the main secret of his success, and, a quality which usually accompanies this, facility of utterance. The weakness of his work lies in its journalistic method, partly natural but largely developed by the peculiar circumstances of an unusually wayfaring life. His real service was in diplomacy, and in his dealings with men he must have possessed remarkable gifts. In literary work he remains an interesting and most likable personality who from the nature of the case never attained perfect mastery over the many points he touched.

FELIX REVILLE BRUNOT. 1820-1898. *A Civilian in the War for the Union, President of the First Board of Indian Commissioners.* By Charles Lewis Slattery. New York: Longmans, Green & Co.

Unquestionably the character and worth of the man is deserving of this biography, and his connection with the Civil War and the Indian reforms gives the work a certain national importance. The early chapters are closely allied with the history of the development of Pittsburgh. The story passes rapidly thence to the war and, most important and vital of all, to Mr. Brunot's work with the Indians as Commissioner. It is unfortunate that there is a tendency toward exaggeration on the part of the biographer. The resemblance to George Washington is unnecessarily insisted upon. Some of the jokes and anecdotes are hardly in place. Assertions become somewhat too confident and dogmatic. A wider charity would recognize that there may be different ways of looking at things—*e. g.*, in connection with the Reformed Episcopal Church, the Southern Churchmen during the war,